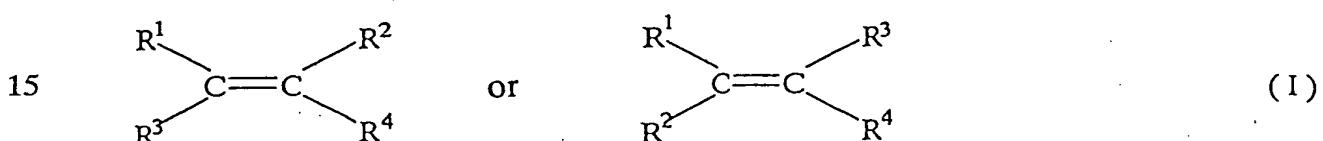


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A water-based ink comprising an aqueous dispersion of polymer particles of a water-insoluble polymer having an alkyl group of at least 20 carbon atoms in its side chain, and a hydrophobic dye.

2. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic dye is at least one dye selected from the group consisting of a copper phthalocyanine dye, a quinophthalone dye and a xanthene dye.

- 10 3. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble polymer is a vinyl polymer prepared by copolymerizing a monomer composition comprising a monomer represented by Formula (I):



wherein each of R¹ and R² is independently hydrogen atom or methyl group; R³ is hydrogen atom, carboxyl group, a -COOR⁵ group wherein R⁵ is an alkyl group having at least 20 carbon atoms, or a -CONR⁵R⁶ group wherein R⁵ is as defined above and R⁶ is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; R⁴ is a -COOR⁵ group wherein R⁵ is as defined above, or a -CONR⁵R⁶ group wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are as defined above,

a salt-forming group-containing monomer, and a monomer copolymerizable with the monomer represented by the Formula (I) and the salt-forming group-containing monomer.

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4. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble polymer has an anionic salt-forming group, and an acid value of 30 to 120 mg KOH/g.

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5. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the alkyl group in the side chain of the water-insoluble polymer is linear.

6. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the water-based ink
10 further comprises 5 to 35% by weight of a permeability controlling solvent.